

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Previously presented) An apparatus for controlling access to information based on content of the information and user identity comprising:

a video display that displays the information to be viewable by one or more users;

a user-recognition input device that determines whether an additional user is newly present in a viewing volume having access to the display; and

a control device coupled to the user-recognition input device and to the video display that selectively controls display of the information based on an output from the user-recognition device.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user-recognition input device includes a imaging input device, and a feature recognition device operable to distinguish between two or more users based on one or more image features of the users.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user-recognition input device includes an audio input device, and an audio feature recognition device operable to distinguish when an additional user arrives.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user-recognition input device includes a movement-detection device operable to distinguish when an additional user arrives.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a priority is assigned to each user, and the control device selectively controls display based on each user's priority.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control device selects a predetermined channel based on a determination by the user-recognition device.

7. (Previously presented) An apparatus for controlling access to information based on content of the information and user identity comprising:

a video display;

a user-recognition input device that identifies all users present in a viewing volume having access to the display and provides one or more values that correspond to the identities of the users;

a memory containing information that identifies a video content that is being displayed on the video display, and information specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content;

a processor that compares a user-identity value from the input device to the memory content specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content and that produces an access-allowed indication based on that comparison; and

a blocking device coupled to the processor that selectively blocks display of the content based on the access-allowed indication wherein display is blocked if any present user is not allowed access to the content.

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8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the video content includes television programming.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the video content includes computer- displayed text or graphics.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the user-recognition input device includes a video input device, and a feature recognition device operable to distinguish between two or more users based on one or more video features of the users.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the user-recognition input device includes an audio input device, and an audio feature recognition device operable to distinguish when an additional user arrives.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the user-recognition input device includes a movement-detection device operable to distinguish when an additional user arrives.

13. (Previously presented) A method for controlling access to information based on content of the information and user identity comprising the steps of:

displaying video information;

determining that a user is present in a viewing volume having access to the display of video information;

storing information that identifies a video content that is being displayed on the video display, and information specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content;

comparing a user-identity value from the input device to the memory content specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content and producing an access-allowed indication based on a permitted access comparison; and

selectively controlling display of the content based on the access-allowed indication.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the video content includes television programming.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the video content includes computer- displayed text or graphics.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of determining includes acquiring video input, and performing feature recognition to distinguish between two or more users based on one or more video features of the users.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of determining includes acquiring audio input, and performing feature recognition operable to distinguish when an additional user arrives.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of determining includes detecting movement to distinguish when an additional user arrives.

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19. (Previously presented) A method for controlling access to information based on content of the information and user identity comprising the steps of:
- outputting the information in a form discernable to a user;
 - determining that an additional user is newly present in a viewing volume having access to the output information; and
 - selectively blocking output of the information based on whether the additional user is newly present.
20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the step of determining includes acquiring video input, and performing feature recognition to distinguish between two or more users based on one or more video features of the users.
21. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the step of determining includes acquiring audio input, and distinguishing from the audio input when an additional user arrives.
22. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the step of determining includes detecting movement to distinguish when an additional user arrives.
23. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the step of determining includes determining the identity of a second user who has appeared, and assigning a priority to the second user, and based on the assigned priority of the second user, switching to a channel assigned to the assigned priority of the second user.
- 24-29. (Cancelled)
30. (Previously presented) An apparatus for controlling access to information comprising:
- a display device that displays the information viewable by one or more people;
 - a recognition device that determines the identity of all people in a viewing volume where the information is viewable on the display device;

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a control device coupled to the recognition device and to the video display that selectively blocks display of the information based on information content type and predetermined access controls for each identified person, wherein display is blocked if any person present in the viewing volume is not allowed access to the content.

~~32~~ 31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~31~~ 30, wherein the recognition device includes a imaging input device, and a feature recognition device operable to distinguish between two or more people based on one or more image features.

~~33~~ 32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~31~~ 30, wherein the recognition device includes an audio input device, and an audio feature recognition device operable to detect when an additional user arrives.

~~34~~ 33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~31~~ 30, wherein the recognition device includes a movement-detection device operable to distinguish when an additional person arrives in the viewing volume.

~~35~~ 34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~31~~ 30, wherein a priority is assigned to each person, and the control device selectively blocks display based on each person's priority.

~~36~~ 35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~31~~ 30, wherein the control device selects a predetermined channel based on a determination by the recognition device.

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~~37~~ 36. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling access to information comprising:
a display device that displays the information viewable by one or more people;
a recognition device that determines the identity of all people in a viewing volume where the information is viewable on the display device;
a control device coupled to the recognition device and to the video display that selectively controls display of the information based on content type of the information and predetermined access controls for each identified person.

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~~38~~ 37. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to information based on content of the information and user identity, the method comprising:
displaying video information;
identifying all users present in a viewing volume having access to the display of video information;
obtaining information that identifies content that is being displayed on the video display, and information specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content;
comparing each identified user to the information specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content; and
selectively blocking display of the content based on the comparison.

~~39~~ 38. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~38~~ 37, wherein the video content includes television programming.

~~40~~ 39. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~38~~ 37 wherein the information that identifies content comprises a rating for a program.

~~41~~ 40. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~40~~ 39 wherein portions of the program are individually rated and selectively blocked.

~~42~~ 41. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~38~~ 37, wherein the video content includes computer- displayed text or graphics.

~~43~~ 42. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~38~~ 37, wherein the identifying comprises acquiring video input, and performing feature recognition to distinguish between two or more users based on one or more video features of the users.

~~44~~ 43. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~38~~ 37, wherein identifying comprises acquiring audio input, and performing feature recognition operable to distinguish when an additional user arrives.

~~45~~ 44. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~38~~ 37, wherein identifying comprises detecting movement to distinguish when an additional user arrives.

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~~46~~ 45. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling access to information based on content of the information and user identity, the device comprising:

means for making information viewable or audible;

means for identifying all users present in a volume where such information is viewable or audible;

means for obtaining information that identifies content that is being made viewable or audible, and information specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content;

means for comparing each identified user to the information specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content; and

means for selectively blocking making information viewable or audible based on the comparison.

~~47~~ 46. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~46~~ 45 wherein the means for identifying each user present in a given area provides an identity selected from the group consisting of specific identity, criteria identity, exclusionary identity and presence identity.

~~48~~ 47. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~46~~ 45 wherein the means for identifying each user present in a given area comprises an image recognition device.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

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~~49~~ 48. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~46~~ 45 wherein display is blocked if any present user is not allowed access to the content.